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The Kentucky Mountains. Transportation and Commerce, 1750 to 1911. A Study in the Economic History of a Coal Field. By Mary Verhoeff. Vol. I, xiii and 208 pp. Maps, ills. John P. Morton & Co., Louisville, Ky., 1911. \$5. 12½ x 10.

In a stately volume we have here a demographic study of particular interest. Long neglected, the society of the Appalachians is now coming into study and a rich harvest is being gathered by the historian and the sociologist. For her central theme Miss Verhoeff has selected the highway system of the mountains, their development under the stimulus of social needs and their strict accord with geographical conditions of the barrier mass. From this introduction she passes to a detailed study of each of the main highways with its feeders and cross links and discusses the effect which each has had upon tributary territory. At every point she discusses the relation and interrelation of the several elements, the Indian trail following the path of least resistance or the trail which promised the richest reward to an animal-slaying nomad, the riverine paths which opened the way for pack-animal and later for wheeled transport, the settlement conditioned by the nature of the soil to which each such path gave access. In the end she discusses the decadence of the old highways when newer methods of transportation established conditions with which these ancient paths could not compete. It is a most complete monograph, it cannot fail of interest to those who enjoy the view of forgotten nooks of our country.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

SOUTH AMERICA

In den Wildnissen Brasiliens. Bericht und Ergebnisse der Leipziger Araguana-Expedition 1908. Von Dr. Fritz Krause. viii and 512 pp. Maps, ills., index. R. Voigtländer, Leipzig, 1911. Mk. 12. 9½ x 7.

The region traversed by this small but excellently conducted expedition lies in close proximity to the meridian of 50° W. through nearly 25° of latitude, between Pará and Santos. It supplies us with fresh information from the states of Pará, Matto Grosso, Goyaz, São Paulo and Minas Geraes. The opening section of the volume, the diary of exploration, is very personal, a careful record of Dr. Krause far from Leipzig set in the heart of the Araguaya country. After one recovers from the feeling of objection to the personal pronoun (and *ich* does not produce quite the effect of I), there is much to be said for this manner of record. In mathematics one would think of it as tending to establish the personal equation, a factor that must enter quite as largely into ethnographical research. We are thus able to weigh the results presented impersonally in the larger half of the work where the author records very carefully worked out notes upon the Indian population of the region. It is a very inspiring record. The observation has been keen and successive observations are very carefully associated. There results an appearance of precision and breadth which in itself establishes the value of these studies. It is agreeable to find that in the elaboration of the economics of the savage life which passed under his examination the author has by no means neglected the topic of amusement. Experience has shown that the savage is not the solemn person he may seem when in the presence of the intruder. Those of us whose lot has for years been cast with primitive peoples have had to learn that life at the bottom of the scale is quite as much a game as it is a struggle. The fuller the record we possess of the sports of the wild the better we shall be equipped to approach the topic of the psychology of immature races, a topic which now clamors for examination. In the not inconsiderable nook of earth in which Dr. Krause has been busy his record of the amusements and the toys of the Indians will long be cited as basic information.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

AFRICA

Africa of To-Day. By Joseph King Goodrich. xvii and 315 pp. Map, ills., index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1912. 7½ x 5.

Like a somewhat larger work "Actual Africa," by Frank Vincent, this book

purports to give a semi-popular account of the conditions and problems of the once "Dark Continent." Like the earlier work, the book is both entertaining and instructive. The author has successfully woven in enough history and tradition to touch off his up-to-date pictures and to show that the physical conditions operating in present day problems have been factors throughout the ages.

After a brief but informing presentation of the various sections of the continent—Northern Africa, The Desert, Oases, Egypt of the Ancients and of Today, The Nile, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern Africa, the discussion turns to several general questions of pertinence. His description of the desert is excellent, and his discussion of oases very informing.

In his discussion of "The Blacks in Africa," he says that they are inferior to the whites in many ways, but keener in some ways; and the conclusion is that the blacks should be elevated for what they are worth by concerted action of governments, merchants and teachers.

In "Everybody's Africa" the scramble for territory is described and the present partition outlined. An extensive bibliography is appended.

G. D. HUBBARD.

Entre le Niger et le Tchad et à l'Est et au Nord-Est du Tchad. Par

G. Garde. 284 pp. Maps, ills. A. Hermann et Fils, Paris, 1911.

This is one of the recent contributions destined to throw some light on that portion of north-central Africa lying east of the river Niger and beyond lake Chad, roughly to meridian 17° east of Greenwich. The author investigated it in the course of his field work as a member of the Tilho boundary commission (1906-1909). He treats the subject from the geologist's standpoint. As usual, however, the geologist has to depend to some extent on purely physiographic facts for the elucidation of geologic problems. As a result, two sets of data are available for the sifting of a few geographic notes.

The work is divided into two main parts. The first refers to the district beginning at the Niger's east bank and extending to the lake Chad basin. The second deals with this lake and the hydrographic system related to it. A brief allusion is also made to the interesting alkaline rocks of the Zinder and Mounio districts. The first part is subdivided into two parts, of which one is a description of the physical geography of the region while the other is restricted to its descriptive geology. Due importance is granted here to the action of erosive agencies whether aqueous or eolian.

As a whole, the work constitutes an excellent preliminary investigation of the evolution to the present stage of aridity of a region which was once exceedingly well-watered. The study of its physiography has placed a powerful tool in the author's hands for the deciphering of this gradual change. The evidence of former active fluvial erosion are the presence of wide valleys and isolated buttes, as on the Adar-Doutchi plateau. Aside from the decrease in the amount of atmospheric precipitation, this aridity of quite recent times is generally ascribed by Dr. Garde to the gradual dissolution of a ferruginous sandstone capping, remnants of which still form the uppermost layers of the resisting lumps of the dissected plateau.

The stratigraphic investigation led to simple conclusions. A basal crystalline band underlies the region. Above it rest detrital accumulations of a sandy-argillaceous character which sometimes attain thicknesses of over 100 meters. Fossiliferous limestones were found to be intercalated with the latter. The most important results in this field appear to be the discovery of a petrographic province characterized by the presence of alkaline rocks in which strong evidence of consanguinity to the igneous rocks of the Sudan region was revealed.

The main physical features of the lake Chad basin are clearly set forth. The lake is described as the remnant of a former extensive sheet of water. The evidence brought forward is not very conclusive, however. No mention is made of earlier shorelines illustrating former levels. On the other hand the presence of lacustrine deposits was recognized. The author insists on lake Chad being an independent outlet for the basin's watercourses. As a corollary to this assertion the existence of the lake is assumed to continue as long as it will be fed by this supply, of which the Shari river contributes a notable proportion.